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M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

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JAMES G. BLAINE.

The Country Editor, The Statesman and Our Next President.

Mr. Blaine was born at Indian Hill farm, Washington county, Pennsylvania, Jan. 31, 1830. His great grandfather, Col. Ephram Blaine, was a friend of Washington, and had charge of the commissariat of the Revolutionary forces during the terrible winter which they passed at Valley Forge. At the age of 12, Blaine was sent to school in Lancaster, Ohio, where he lived in the family of his relative, Hon. Thomas Ewing, then secretary of the treasury. One year later he entered Washington college, where he graduated at the head of a large class in 1847. In 1850 he went to Kentucky as a teacher in the military academy at Blue Lick Springs. Here he met Miss Stanwood, a Massachusetts girl, who subsequently became his wife. In the course of a year or two Blaine made up his mind that teaching school wasn't his forte, and he went back to Pennsylvania. He then studied law, but never practiced it. In 1853 he removed to Maine and there began his public career. With aid from his wife's relatives he became the editor of the Kennebec *Journal*, and in the course of a few months he moved to Portland, where he edited the *Advertiser*. His position and family connections soon brought him into prominence politically. In 1858 he was elected to the Maine legislature. He was five times re-elected, and in 1861 and 1862 was chosen speaker of the house, in which position he exhibited the same excellent qualities afterward displayed as speaker of the national house of representatives.

In 1862 Mr. Blaine was elected to congress. During his first term he gave himself up to study and observation, but in the next congress, the thirty-ninth, he gained some prominence, and from that time to the end of his career he occupied a foremost place among the republican leaders. It was about this time that Blaine ran afoul of Roscoe Conkling and alluded to him in debate as a turkey cock, an epithet so apt that Conkling never forgave it. During the period of southern reconstruction Blaine made many speeches that attracted much attention and spread his fame as an orator. In the forty-first, forty-second and forty-third congresses he was elected speaker of the house. In this capacity he showed a ready knowledge of parliamentary usage and a fairness and unpartiality in his rulings that won him general praise from both parties.

When the country began to look around for a man to succeed Grant in the White House it was impossible to overlook Blaine. His prominence in the house, the popular applause that his bold, aggressive, and brilliant career as a leader had secured at once suggested him as one of the most available candidates. For a year or two previous to the Cincinnati convention of 1876, everything favored Blaine in his efforts to push himself for the nomination. For the first time since the war the democrats had possession of the house of representatives. This was Blaine's opportunity. He thrust himself forward as a plumed knight battling for the rights of the royal north against the designing and evil-minded rebels from the south. The democrats grew furious, and said and did many foolish things. Everything served Blaine. One of the principal incidents of the session was his set-to with Ben Hill, of Georgia. Provision had been made in the pension bill for all veterans of the Mexican war. This would have included Jeff Davis. On him the Maine orator unbottled his oratorical wrath, goading Hill into a hasty and ill-considered reply that contained many things unpleasing to northern ears.

The Sunday before the Republican National convention was to meet at Cincinnati Blaine started for church at Washington in company with Miss Dodge, a relative. The day was intensely warm. Just as they reached the door Blaine fell to the ground as if dead. A large crowd collected around him. A carriage was called and he was carried home in an apparently unconscious condition.

Blaine's illness told against him in the convention, for it gave his enemies there a chance to urge that he was a broken-down man and that it wouldn't do to nominate him. At one time it seemed as if he were certain to be nominated. But the influence of his ancient enemy, Conkling, was at work, and the convention finally dropped him and nominated Hayes.

In June, 1876, Blaine was appointed to fill the seat in the senate vacated by Lot M. Morrill, who had been made secretary of the treasury, and in January, 1877, he was elected for the full term ending March 4, 1883.

The history of the struggle in the Chicago convention of that year need not be retold here; it is too well remembered. The "old guard" remained steadfast to Grant, nobody would reinforce the insufficient Blaine delegates, and the prize went to a dark horse—Garfield.

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN.

The Next Vice-President of the United States.

Illinois' gallant son was nominated by acclamation at 8:32 last night. It was a most fitting thing to round up the ticket with a union soldier who never lost a battle or disobeyed an order.

In 1823 Dr. John Logan emigrated from Ireland and settled in Jackson county, Illinois, where on Feb. 9, 1826, John A. Logan was born. His mother, who was Elizabeth Jenkins, was a native of Tennessee. The early life of John A. Logan was spent in Jackson county, where he obtained some education from his father and such school teachers as chanced to teach in the district. At the outbreak of the Mexican war, young Logan volunteered and was chosen a lieutenant in a company of the First Illinois Infantry. As a soldier he did good service, and was for some time adjutant of his regiment. In the fall of 1848, upon his return to his home, he commenced the study of law in the office of his uncle, Alexander M. Jenkins, formerly lieutenant governor of Illinois. In November, 1849, he was elected clerk of Jackson county. In 1850 he attended a course of law lectures at Louisville, Ky., receiving his diploma in 1851, when he entered into practice with his uncle. The following year he was elected prosecuting attorney of the Third judicial district, and in the fall of the same year he was chosen

He was in the first battle of Bull Run and was one of the last men to leave the field, being at the time a member of congress. He immediately raised a regiment and was commissioned colonel, and participated in the battles of Belmont, Ft. Henry and Ft. Donnelson soon after. At the battle of Shiloh he was made a brigadier. At the battle of Corinth he was publicly thanked by Gen. Sherman. In the battle of Vicksburg he commanded the third division. He was selected by Gen. Grant for consultation during the interviews with Gen. Pemberton looking to the terms of the surrender, and in consideration of his admirable services Gen. Logan's command was ordered to take the lead in the march into Vicksburg, July 4, after which he was given the command of that post, which he retained until placed in command of the Fifteenth corps November 14, 1863.

From that time on to the end of the war his record is but a succession of brilliant achievements one after another.

After the close of the war Gen. Logan was offered the position of Minister to Mexico, but declined. In 1866 he was elected to congress from the state at large in Illinois by a majority of 55,987, and in the fortieth congress was one of the managers of the impeachment of President Johnson. In the next, the forty-first congress, Logan began to make his mark.

In 1870 Logan was elected by the Illinois legislature to the United States senate to succeed Richard Yates, where he has remained ever since except for two years.

Bismarck calls Gladstone a talkative dreamer, and the English Premier refers to the German Chancellor as being without moral principle. In their closing days both might find something better to do than abusing one another in public. They recall the famous scene in Zola's "L'Assommoir," where the two washewomen fling fling buckets-full of soapsuds over each other.